

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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CX 5/15.2

CL 2003/36-CCFO
October 2003

TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: Request for Cooperation with IOOC data survey on Olive Oils

DEADLINE: 10 December 2003

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| COMMENTS: | To: Dr. Ahmed Touzani Executive Director International Olive Oil Council Madrid Spain Fax: +49 (91) 563 -1263 e-mail: iooc@internationaloliveoil.org | Copy to: Secretary Codex Alimentarius Commission Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme - FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 Italy Fax: +39 (06) 5705 4593 E-mail: codex@fao.org |
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BACKGROUND

The 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted the Standard for Olive Oil at Step 8 without any figure in the column for C18:3 (linolenic acid) in Section 3.9 with footnote "Pending the results of IOOC survey and further consideration by the Committee on Fats and Oils, national limits may remain in place". In this context the Commission also agreed that the secretariat would work with the Chair of the Committee and the IOOC to develop a Circular Letter advising members of the importance of submitting data for the survey. (Paragraph 83 ALINORM 03/44)

Following this decision, for the purpose of considering appropriate level linolenic acid (C18:3) in the standard which can be accepted by member countries, the International Olive Oil Council (IOOC) decided to conduct a data survey of linolenic acid levels involving major olive oil producing countries and taking into account a wide variety of agro-climate conditions. The questionnaire was sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the following countries selected by IOOC; Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia Brazil, Chile, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Macedonia, Mexico Morocco, New Zealand, Palestine, Peru, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Serbia-Montenegro, South Africa, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America.

The questionnaire, which is entitled "*Analytical characteristics of edible virgin olive oils by producing area of the producer countries - survey conducted in 2003-2004 by the Executive Secretariat of the International Olive Oil Council*", is designed to glean the data required to

describe each olive-growing area of the country, as well as information on the volume of olive oil produced and marketed over the last three crop years and the fatty acid composition of the oil during the same period. Respondents are highly recommended to send the IOOC samples of representative olive oils from the producing areas. The deadline for submission of the data and the samples requested in the questionnaire is 30 September 2004.

This Circular Letter is to ask those countries to which the questionnaire was sent to cooperate with this survey as much as possible through submission of data and samples of olive oils they produce.

Furthermore, if governments which were not included in the targeted countries for data survey have interests in the data survey and have sufficient relevant data (as well as samples) for submission, those governments are invited to transmit their willingness to take part in the survey to IOOC Secretariat at the above mentioned address **before 10 December 2003.**

The outcome of this survey will be analysed and compiled as a document by IOOC which will be circulated to all governments and organizations for comments and discussion in the next CCFO scheduled to be held early 2005.